

16  
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATUARY COMMISSION.

REMARKS

OF

HON. DANIEL ERMENTROUT,

SENATOR FROM BERKS COUNTY,

ON THE

BILL MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR STATUES  
OF MUHLENBERG AND FULTON.

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Hoch in den Lüften flattert stolz die Fahne !  
Was ist's, was ihre gold'ne Inschrift nennt?  
Gott gebe es, daß sie den Weg Euch bahne;  
Es ist die Fahne vom deutschen Regiment !

You shall have chariots fleetier than air  
Which I have invented.

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HARRISBURG:

LANE S. HART, PRINTER AND BINDER.

1879.

1837-1899  
1837-1899



## REMARKS.

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The Senate having under consideration Senate bill No. 132, entitled "An act making an appropriation for the statues of distinguished Pennsylvanians, in pursuance of an act of Assembly approved April 18, 1877,"

Mr. EVERHART (Senator from Chester) offered the following amendment, to be inserted, after striking out last word of sixth line, section first: "*Provided*, That this contract be so modified that the statue of General Anthony Wayne be one of the two statues to be executed."

Mr. EVERHART, in support of the amendment, having addressed the Senate, Mr. ERMENTROUT, (Senator from Berks,) disabled from replying by a severe cold, asked and obtained leave to print his remarks:

Mr. PRESIDENT: In availing myself of the privilege accorded by the Senate, it is not my purpose to endeavor to compete with the Senator from Chester [Mr. EVERHART] in rhetoric, nor to dazzle the judgment by searching through the records of the past since the world began, and singling out some special quality that has characterized each of the heroes and sages who have left their impress there, by a species of oratorical jugglery or anachronism, to impute the aggregated excellencies thus garnered to a single individual. It is not my purpose to take advantage of the occasion to turn history into extravagant panegyric or romance. This

most pleasing diversion I will leave entirely to the Senator from Chester, whose tastes fit him so preëminently for it.

It is not to be doubted that the Senator from Chester represents the wishes of his constituency, in his efforts on behalf of General Wayne. Not one leaflet would I pluck from Mad Anthony's well-earned laurels. With the people of his native county, I share an honest pride in his fame. It is, however, a reflection upon the dead hero, and not creditable to his people, that they permitted the flesh of his disinterred body, after the manner of the Chinese, to be scraped, or, as some have it, boiled off his bones, and the flesh re-buried, and his bones packed in a box, slung under a gig, and thus to be rattled over the Alleghenies, on the way to Chester county—"a terror, along the road, to Dutch hostlers and negro stable boys," as the purveyor of these *disjecta membra*, was fond of relating. The Indians, when migrating from place to place, were accustomed to treat the bones of their ancestors with more respect. They reverently bore them on their shoulders. A burial in St. David's church-yard, with military honors, after such treatment, is, to say the least, a rather incongruous spectacle. This was in 1809. The Senator from Chester had not then appeared upon the stage, to surround the historical remains of his hero with the glamour of his imagination, else this sacrilege had not been committed. Had the friends of Wayne shown, before the commission, a tithe of the zeal to place his statue at Washington, that they now show to tear down the statues of others, their hopes might have been realized.

But it is an untimely zeal—a zeal that has slept until golden opportunity has fled—and now, neither justice to Wayne nor truth, demands that Pennsylvania should dishonor herself and her history to gratify disappointed hopes.



The State, through her sworn commissioners, acting under her broad seal, have, in the language of the first section of the act of April 18, 1877, Pamphlet Laws, 73, proceeded "to have executed, in marble, the statues of two deceased persons, who have been citizens of the Commonwealth, illustrious for their historic renown, or for distinguished civic or other services, previous to or during the Revolution, to be placed in that part of the national gallery reserved for this State," and they have exercised the power in the section given, "to select an artist, and to contract for the execution of said statues."

It is now set up as an apology for reflection on the commission and the subjects selected, that they have exceeded the limits of their duty, and of their authority in having exercised the powers conferred by the first section, without reporting to the Legislature. Because the learned Senator says, the commission could not make their action final, that their powers are not absolute and independent, but qualified in these respects, that their duty was preparation, examination, and selection. The ground for this assertion is claimed to be found in section four of the act which is as follows: "That the said commission shall make an annual report to the Legislature of the progress made in the work contemplated by this act." The plain English of the first section does not justify this interpretation. The power there given is without limitation except as to price. This is made clearer by the clause of the third section appropriating "\$2,000 for the purpose herein named, and for defraying actual traveling expenses of the commissioners." Decency will not permit the presumption that a trifle less than one seventh of so small an appropriation as \$15,000 was intended to be consumed in expenses and services preliminary to the

work. The words "for the purpose herein named," so far as the bulk of the \$2,000 is concerned, mean "to contract for and have executed the statues." How could the work be done if the commission had not absolute and independent power to direct it? Again: the words of the fourth section are not that "the commissioners shall make an annual report to the Legislature of their progress," or "the progress of the commission," or "the progress made by them," or "by the commission;" but of "the progress made in the work contemplated by this act." That work relates to the work on the statues; how far they have proceeded towards completion, and so on. So much for the language of the act, now for the reason of it. The Legislature at a previous session, after attempting it, had failed to make a selection. It was found to be impracticable, and hence it was felt that if Pennsylvania was to be represented in the national rotunda, it must be accomplished by some means entirely free and independent of the caprices and thoughtless prejudices of individuals. A reference to the contract, drawn in accord with the act, the work of one of the most eminent lawyers of the State, will show that the supervision of the commission extends over the work until the statues are placed in the national gallery. Of this work annual reports are required. The terms of the contract thus illustrate the true meaning. The intention of the framers of the act was to make the power absolute.

It is, therefore, plain that the Senator from Chester [Mr. EVERHART] by confounding terms and sheltering himself behind a pure fallacy, either designedly or from lack of careful examination, has unjustifiably cast reproach upon the commission, and upon the illustrious men selected as subjects for these statues, and what they represent. A reproach not



at all necessary for purposes of oratorical display, local popularity, or historic truth.

As a member of the commission, I would have preferred to let criticism run its course; but under these circumstances, when the law is perverted for the purpose of nullifying the acts of the commission, and placing this subject in the uncertainty of the past, silence would be a crime.

The selection was not made without much reflection. The annals of Pennsylvania are adorned with the achievements of many illustrious men. Of these, only two could be chosen. A choice universally acceptable was out of the question. The number of persons who would think alike would be few. The discussions in the press and in the Legislature at this and previous sessions prove this. Local prejudice, neighborhood partiality, family relationship, old traditions, and the twist given to men's opinions by early training were all to be encountered. The gist of the matter thoroughly sifted, amounts to this: Not that the minds of thoughtful men, who differ from the commission, are persuaded that the subjects selected are not fit and proper, but, that their minds are prepossessed by other preferences. These very persons who thus differ from the commission also differ, for the same reasons, among themselves, and thus we are where we begun. No commission could ever act that would not find its conclusions unsatisfactory to some.

There were many names suggested. Among them, William Penn. But full justice has already been done him. The name of the empire granted to him in seigniority and sovereignty in the soil, and as proprietary, its progress and glory are sufficient honor. His name has been stamped on everything he owned, and much that he did not own. On townships, institutions of learning, streets, banks, insurance

companies, fire companies, lodges, and public buildings. It should be remembered that not only was he recompensed in honor, but that both he and his descendants have been recompensed in wealth and tribute. It should be remembered that he was born and died a British subject, that neither he nor his descendants were of any service to the country in the Revolution; that the religious doctrines he taught were not new, but those of the Sermon on the Mount, and derived from the teachings of our Saviour. That the liberty he proclaimed was the birthright of the Saxon and the heritage of every branch of the race. That the religious tolerance he promised as part of his frame of government was the strongest inducement he could offer to attract emigration in the then religious condition of Germany and other parts of Europe. That he had been anticipated in his policy of pacification with the Indians by the Dutch and Swedes, who preceded him on the Delaware. And, further, that much of the luster that surrounds this policy in the eyes of this generation, and those preceding it, is the reflection back of Conrad Weiser's labors and wisdom in the same direction. It is this intervening halo that has served to some extent to gild William Penn's great and justly deserved fame.

Then there was Conrad Weiser himself—the Pennsylvania statesman and Indian diplomat of the colonial era. The story of his life combines, to a remarkable degree, elements of romance, religion, and adventure. In the severest time of that period, often single-handed and alone, encountering every imaginable hardship, Providence seemed to have raised up and prepared him for the special purpose of rendering services, indispensable to the preservation and continued existence of the Pennsylvania colony. His presence and mind exerted a magical power over the untutored sav-



ages. Unquestionably, to him the Pennsylvania colonists were indebted for the safety of their lives and property, and the whole Province, to the prosperity resulting from the peace maintained with the Indians, through his influence.

But Weiser was born abroad. This Commonwealth, whose soil had been trodden by the foot of the white man for more than two hundred years, would be a barren mother, if she had not given birth to, and nurtured on her bosom, at least two sons, who would meet the requirements of the act. This conclusion, necessarily, prevented the selection of other great men, born outside our borders, who attained distinction here.

The first section of the act calls for "citizens of this Commonwealth, illustrious for their historic renown, or for distinguished civic or other services," differing from the language of the preamble, which cites the act of Congress, and reads, "illustrious for their historic renown, or from distinguished civic or military services." Instead of "military services," in which, of course, may be included "historic renown," we have "other services." The difference has its significance, as plainly declaring that, though the sheen of the saber might dazzle, yet these civic, or other services, also made illustrious the lives of men, and made glorious the pages of a nation's history.

The pen and the sword, the gown of the priest, and the cloak of the soldier, the successful domination of the hidden forces of nature, and the harnessing of them, subject to the will of man, so as to make them minister to the happiness, comfort, grandeur, and material progress of nations; all these are included in the terms; all these become elements of "the historic renown," "the distinguished civil or other services," called for by the act. Certainly, it would have

been competent to have made the quality of warrior, or statesmanship, or science, alone, the reason for a decision. But, if the commission could find subjects that, in their careers, combined all the qualities and attributes that men delight to love, and Commonwealths to honor, obviously, then, it should be their duty and their pleasure, laying aside all preconceived notions, to select these subjects. These considerations resulted in the selection of John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg and Robert Fulton. Are they worthy of the honor?

General Muhlenberg was the son of Doctor Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, a learned and distinguished theologian of the German Lutheran Church, who came into this country and settled at the Trappe, Montgomery county, in 1742, and of Anna, daughter of Conrad Weiser, before mentioned. He was born October 1, 1746, at that place. The father came here to take charge of the spiritual welfare of the large German emigration already in this State, as Conrad Weiser was called from New York to look after the temporal welfare of the same people. The home of Doctor Muhlenberg became the source of great influence for good to this colony, from thence young men were sent, prepared to disseminate religious truth. Among them Doctor Muhlenberg's own three sons, Peter, Frederick, and Ernest. Peter Muhlenberg thus unites very largely in his person, by natural inheritance, the most important traditions of that early era, flowing from its temporal and spiritual life. He adorned them by his long and useful career, and showed himself worthy of this noble inheritance. In April, 1763, a boy of sixteen, he started for Germany, in company with his two brothers, to prosecute his studies at the University of Halle. He had been there barely a year, when his fighting propensities im-



pelled him to knock down his tutor, for which he was expelled, and his military tastes led him to join a regiment of German dragoons. It is related that at the battle of Brandywine, where he commanded a brigade, he was recognized by former comrades, who exclaimed, as they saw him, "here comes Devil Pete." Released from the German army, through the good offices of some friends of his father, he returned to America in 1766. He applied himself rigorously to the study of theology, and was, in 1768, ordained a minister of the Evangelical Church. Up to 1772, he officiated for various German congregations in New Jersey, when he went to London, where, in company with Mr., afterwards Bishop, White, he was again ordained according to the rites of the Episcopal Church. Thus annointed with two consecrations, he was called, in 1772, to the Shenandoah Valley to minister to the German Lutherans there. This was, in a great measure, a missionary enterprise, as the population of that valley consisted for the most part of Pennsylvania Germans. He there became the right man in the right place. The young priest had come among them to minister to their spiritual welfare, but he soon found other matters, in addition, to engage his attention. He actively participated in the great questions of the day, and in public meetings expressed himself in favor of the policy of armed resistance. June 16, 1774, he was chosen moderator of a meeting held at Woodstock, Drumore county, to organize a committee of Public Safety, his active coadjutors being Abraham Bowman and Peter Helfenstein. The same year he was elected member of the House of Burgesses—he was present when Patrick Henry, at the memorable convention of Richmond, March 22, 1775, delivered his irresistible appeal for the arming of Virginia, and supported effectively this decisive



step against the doubting thoughts of many others. All the German delegates from the Valley voted with Muhlenberg for the resolutions. They were sufficient in numbers in the divided state of opinion to turn the scale. It was a most decisive step in the struggle. The proceedings of that convention were then proclaimed treasonable. The same year, December, 1775, additional regiments to the number of six, making eight in all, were directed to be raised. Muhlenberg, still connected with his charge, received the colonelcy of the Eighth regiment, being, with Patrick Henry, the only civilian appointed colonel. The time had now come for him to bid farewell to the peaceful calling of Shepherd of Souls. The news that the Reverend Colonel Muhlenberg was about to deliver his parting sermon, assembled, in the month of January, 1776, an unusually large audience at Woodstock, so that even the resting place of the dead around the church was filled with persons. In all the glorious history of that glorious era of self-sacrifice, of heroism and grand deeds, no figure stands out before us so baptized, so annointed with the divinity of holy faith and war-like heroism. That spot, that time, that hour are forever sanctified by the halo of religion and the fervor of patriotism.

In impressive manner Muhlenberg spoke of the duties which the common weal of the Fatherland imposed on all, and closed with the significant, earnest words, that there was a time to fight, and that the time had come. Then he spoke the benediction. His career as pastor was ended. He laid aside his priestly gown, and stood before them in the full panoply of the armed warrior. He stepped down from the pulpit, and caused the trumpet to sound and the drums to beat. Patriotism broke out in bright flames, and three hundred men of the neighborhood on that day flocked to

Muhlenberg's banner. The scene will forever live in history as it has been immortalized in song.

Henceforth his career was inseparably interwoven with the history of the war of Independence. Early in the progress of thought preceding the struggle, it had been made a matter of special inquiry, by a committee appointed for that purpose, to ascertain the mind of the Germans in Pennsylvania on the subject of Independence.\* In August, 1775, the united German Lutheran and Reformed Churches of Philadelphia, in connection with the German society, had addressed a message to the Germans of North Carolina and New York in favor of independence. No doubt the elder Muhlenberg was connected with the movement as the leading man of the Lutheran Church. It needed no message to the Pennsylvania Germans of Shenandoah valley. Their leader in the sacred cause of liberty was with them already in the person of Peter Muhlenberg. There is no telling how the movement in favor of the cause would have fared with-

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\* "These Germans brought with them industrious and frugal habits, virtues of primary importance in a newly settled country, and that part of the Province which they chose for their settlement has not been surpassed by any other in the beauty of its cultivation; nor will it be thought far fetched that the Saxons and Swiss possessed a love of liberty and a regard for free institutions. In the beginning of our perilous revolutionary war, it became necessary fully to ascertain the sentiments of the people in the interior of the Province, and in Pennsylvania it was thought proper to know with certainty what part the Germans would take in the approaching contest; accordingly, three of the most influential gentlemen of that period, under the guise of a pleasurable tour with their wives, visited, with this view, some of the most populous counties. The party made a fête in the woods, near one of the towns, to which many of the German farmers were invited, who assured them that their countrymen were almost unanimous in their cause. One old man said, that his father had fled from great oppression in Germany, and on his death bed had charged his sons to defend the liberties they enjoyed in this country, if it should be necessary, with their lives. I had this anecdote from one of the gentlemen."—*Logan Correspondence, Vol. 11, page 103, published by Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Foot note by Deborah Logan.*



out the support of this large and influential body of the population.

Muhlenberg, at the head of his German regiment, which was more numerous than the others, first participated in Lee's campaign against Lord Dunmore in Virginia. Ordered to South Carolina, he arrived in the nick of time to render effective service with his brave troops at the battle of Sullivan's Island or Fort Moultrie. May 27, 1776, his regiment was taken into service by the Continental Congress. In July, his regiment was at Savannah. September, he was ordered to Virginia; in December, to Philadelphia. February 21, 1777, he was made a brigadier general. After equipping thoroughly his regiment, he was ordered to join the main army of the North at Middlebrook, New Jersey. Here his brigade and the German regiment, composed of Marylanders and Pennsylvanians, were combined, and his brigade, with Weedon's, formed General Greene's division, which, in the unfortunate battles of Brandywine and Germantown, gained honor by its bravery and good discipline. After the battle of Brandywine, August 11, 1777, Muhlenberg's brigade showed the most stubborn resistance to the pursuing troops of Cornwallis, and successfully covered the retreat of the American army at the battle of Germantown. Muhlenberg's brigade was the last to leave the field, after having brought the right wing of the enemy to a stand by a splendid bayonet charge. In fact, Greene's division and Muhlenberg's brigade bore the brunt of the day, and alone performed the part assigned by Washington in the plan of the battle of Germantown. Muhlenberg had voted to defer the attack. He also sat on the court-martial of Wayne, for surprise at Paoli; of Stephen, for intoxication at Germantown; of Maxwell, for the same cause, at Brandywine. He



shared, with the rest of Washington's army, at Valley Forge, the sufferings, cold, want, and discouragement that hung like a cloud over the gallant host.

April 10, 1778, owing to some dispute about rank, he sent his resignation to Washington, but that great man, unwilling to dispense with his services, requested him to remain, a request with which he complied. In the same year, the day after the evacuation of Philadelphia, Washington left Valley Forge, and Muhlenberg took part in the battle of Monmouth, on that hot 28th day of June. In 1779, Washington selected him to cover Mad Anthony's rear, in the attack upon Stony Point. In 1780, he was busied with the re-organization of the State troops of Virginia. Not only men, but arms, clothing, and supplies were wanting. After the capitulation of Charleston, March 12, 1780, his small command was the only organized force in the South, and the responsible duty of creating a new army devolved on him. The following year, when General Greene, supplied with greater forces, assumed command of the southern department, and Baron Steuben commanded in Virginia, Muhlenberg operated against Benedict Arnold, the traitor. His vigilance shut him up in Portsmouth. At an engagement at City Point, near Petersburg, April 25, 1781, he threw himself against Arnold's superior forces with such gallantry, that Steuben made his warmest acknowledgments, and gave particular prominence to his services in the official report. July 6, 1781, in the action between Cornwallis and Lafayette, when both the latter and Wayne had been deceived as to the enemy's movements in crossing the James river, at James City, Muhlenberg, upon hearing the enemy's fire, without orders, marched to the scene of action, and arrived in time to extricate Wayne from his difficulties, and save

the advance from capture or rout. September 29, 1781, Muhlenberg, was placed in command of the advance posts around Yorktown, and it was permitted him to play a prominent part at the important battle that crippled the English power in America, and brought peace in its train. At the assault of the heights of Yorktown, October 15, 1781, he commanded the light infantry brigade, which stormed the left redoubt of the enemy's fortifications with the bayonet; an heroic act, ranking with the most glorious achievements of the war. He was, however, slightly wounded at this attack. Alexander Hamilton was the second in command. He continued in the army till the treaty of peace was signed, along with Wayne, and others, in 1783. On the 30th of September, of that year, he received the well-earned honor of promotion to the rank of major general. In 1783, he returned, permanently, to Pennsylvania; was elected vice president of Pennsylvania, in 1785, '86, '87. In 1788, together with his brother Frederick, he warmly pressed the acceptance of the proposed Constitution of the United States. In the same year—December—he was elected one of the eight members to the First Congress of the United States, from Montgomery county, to serve from March 4, 1789, to 1791. Of this body, his brother, Frederick Augustus, was elected Speaker. In 1790, his influence was greatly efficient in securing the adoption of the new Constitution of Pennsylvania. He also rendered important services in the First Congress, in matters pertaining to the army and national defense. He was a member of the Second and Sixth Congress. He was always a decided adherent of the Republican party. When the election of a President, in consequence of the tie vote between Burr and Jefferson, devolved on the House, he voted for Jefferson on every ballot, till the



thirty-sixth ballot resulted in the election of Jefferson. When it was in contemplation to designate the President with the same title as the Stadthalter of Holland, "His High Mightyness," Washington asked Muhlenberg's opinion. He treated the matter with frank ridicule, much to the distaste of Washington. This circumstance may have contributed to prevent the appointment of Muhlenberg to be commander-in-chief of the army, as had been expected. Previous to St. Clair's appointment, he was warmly pressed for the position.

In 1801 he was elected United State Senator. After a few months' service, however, he resigned, and was appointed Inspector of Internal Revenue for Pennsylvania, and in 1802 collector of Philadelphia. He was, like his brother Frederick, president of the German society of Pennsylvania, an association which rendered such useful services to the country from the date of its foundation, in 1764, through the colonial, pre-revolutionary period, during the revolution, and afterwards. Peter Muhlenberg was president in 1788, and from 1802 to 1807. His last appearance at their meetings was April 9, 1807, on the occasion of the dedication of the new hall of the society, built under his auspices. He died October 1, 1807, on the anniversary of his sixty-first birthday, at Philadelphia.

He was of tall stature, robust, and animated. In some measure nature moulded him for a soldier, and he glided into his vocation as soon as the opportunity arose. In him courage and decision were allied with a cool deliberation, which comprehended thoroughly the situation, and thus Washington found in him not only a consummate officer, but a trustworthy adviser. In his character he was open, amiable, and without arrogance. But if there was one trait which



controlled his life, his political principles, and his conduct, and which stamped his inner being, it was a love of liberty.

His earthly remains found their last resting place in the peaceful village of the Trappe, where he was born, where he spent the wild days of boyhood, and where his reverend father also sleeps. This is the unvarished record of the long career of the scholar, the priest, the soldier, the statesman, and the citizen, illustrious by the distinguished services of his ancestors, illustrious by the traditions he centers in his person, and illustrious and preëminent, not for one thing alone, but for the achievements of a varied career and of a many-sided mind, crowned with a well-ordered life. As such, he has been selected, by the deliberate judgment of the commission, to be clothed in sculptured marble, and set up in the national rotunda, as one of Pennsylvania's representative men—a bright and shining example for future generations to honor and to emulate. It has been hinted that the field of his renown was Virginia. We deny it. The field of his usefulness and renown was in the South and North—in the Carolinas, Virginia, Pennsylvania. His sword was unsheathed in all these States. His voice, in the Virginia House of Burgesses and Committee of Safety, was but that of the Pennsylvania German missionary speaking for and leading the Pennsylvania Germans of the Shenandoah. He went there in 1772; was there but two years as a pastor, and then from that time on he was wherever duty called, rendering his services to the whole country. The struggle over, liberty achieved—covered with the honors of war—he returns to his native State, and again his counsel and his voice are given to mould her government and the nation's laws. The boundaries of Virginia, great a State as she was, were too narrow to hem in his deeds, his usefulness, or his glory. His cradle was rocked in Pennsylvania, his mind

was formed there. In the darkest days of the war, he, with his right arm and his wisdom, guarded his home, and defended her soil. After the war, he led in her councils, and, in death, her bosom became his grave.

In the selection of Robert Fulton, prominence is given to Pennsylvania's share in contributing to the comfort and happiness, the wealth and material progress, not only of a State or a country, but of the world. God created the new world with great capacities. He lavished with unsparing hand untold wealth upon her mountains, plains, and valleys. He poured out upon her seamed surface mighty rivers, whose currents traverse the entire continent to be swallowed up in the greater waters that roll their resistless waves around her rock-bound shores. These mighty rivers were first rippled only by the canoe of the Indian, then by the flat-boat, the raft, and ark of the early explorer, settler, and trader. The more dangerous ocean was traversed by the slow-sailing ship. Fulton, by his successful application of steam to purposes of water navigation, and by experiments in naval torpedo warfare, as if by the wand of a magician, revolutionized the commerce and trade of his day, and of the world, as well as pioneered the way for the wholesale destruction of navies, to remedy and ward off which great governments are spending countless sums. The immense streams of the country were made tributary to the nation's greatness. Old ocean bent his submissive waves to the paddle of the steamer, and found a master despite adverse winds. To-day rivers, bays, gulfs, and oceans, the world over, are dotted with innumerable rich argosies, moving monuments, bearing unmistakable testimony to the triumph of mind over matter, to its domination over the forces of nature, to the unflagging zeal, to the skill, and to the genius of Robert Fulton. And when New York, after first select.



ing, rejects him because he was born and reared on our soil, shall Pennsylvania refuse to crown him? The commission decided otherwise. Though the Hudson was the scene of his first signal success, yet the State through which her waters roll does not limit either the field of his distinction or his fame. His fame does not belong to States, for his genius enriched empires. It is co-extensive with the world, bounded only by the barriers which nature has set to broad and trackless oceans.

It has been hinted by the Senator from Delaware [Mr. COOPER] that the selection has been based on blood, because it turns out that both the men selected are representatives of certain races—the one of the Pennsylvania Germans, the other of the mixed Irish and Scotch. Instead of this being ground for adverse criticism, it should be a matter of congratulation and pride that, in addition to the other excellencies which render them worthy of this distinction, so just a tribute could be fittingly paid to the nationalities whose combined character, energy, and services have contributed—during the hardships of the colonial era—in the resolution to fight for independence—in the dangers of war—in the councils of State and the Church—and in the peaceful pursuits of science, art, agriculture, and commerce—to make Pennsylvania the great empire she is to-day.

How can it then justly be gainsaid that the selections made are eminently wise and proper? When the disappointments of honest and sincere, but unthinking, preference and prejudice have disappeared before a calm and dispassionate consideration of the subject, the preponderating conclusion will be that the commission have acted in the spirit of true Pennsylvanians, and the thoughtful verdict will be that, in honoring her two distinguished sons with statues in the old hall of the House, Pennsylvania is honoring herself.



## APPENDIX.

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### **1. Brief of Life and Services of John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg.**

Born at Trappe, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, October 1, 1746, son of Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg and Anna, daughter of Conrad Weiser.

Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg emigrated from Germany, 1742.

Peter, eldest son of H. M. and Anna Muhlenberg.

April 27, 1763. Peter and his brothers, Frederick, Augustus, and Henry Ernestus, sent to Europe to be educated.

June 15, 1763. The three brothers arrive in London.

1763. They arrive at Halle, in the autumn.

1764. Knocks his tutor down; is expelled from the University of Halle, and enlists in a regiment of dragoons.

1765. About this time he obtained his discharge from the dragoon regiment, through the kind offices of a colonel in the English army, known to his father.

1766. Returns to America.

1768. Ordained a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

May 12, 1768. Appointed assistant rector of Zion's and St. Paul's Churches, situated at New Germantown and Bedminister, Hunterdon and Somerset counties, New Jersey.

February 5, 1769. Begins to officiate in his new charge.

November 6, 1770. Married to Anna Barbara Meyer.

March 2, 1772. Sails for London.

April 10, 1772. Arrives at London.

April 23, 1772. Ordained a priest, with Mr., afterwards Bishop, White, by the bishop of London.

Autumn, 1772. Removes to Virginia—Woodstock.

June 16, 1774. Chosen moderator of meeting held at Woodstock, Dunmore county, Virginia, to organize a committee of public safety.

1774. Chairman committee public safety.

1774. Elected a member of the House of Burgesses.

March, 1775. Supports resolution of Patrick Henry to put colony of Virginia in a state of defense.

1775. The proceedings of the convention proclaimed, by Lord Dunmore, to be treasonable.

1775. Two regiments raised under Colonels Henry and Woodford.

December, 1775. Resolution passed to raise six additional regiments.

December, 1775. Chosen colonel Eighth Virginia regiment. Patrick Henry and he only civilians appointed colonels.

January, 1776. Preaches farewell sermon at Woodstock. After sermon, three hundred men enlist. See Memoir, pages 50-54.

1776. Served under General Lee at the attack on Charleston, South Carolina.

May 27, 1776. Eighth Virginia regiment taken into service, Continental Congress.

July, 1776. Muhlenberg's regiment sent to Savannah.

September, 1776. Regiment ordered to Virginia.

December, 1776. Regiment ordered to Philadelphia.

February 21, 1777. Promoted to rank of brigadier general, ranking, in the army list, immediately after General Anthony Wayne.

April, 1777. The First, Fifth, Seventh, and Thirteenth regiments, Virginia line, assigned to his brigade.

May, 1777. Sets out for head-quarters army, Morristown, New Jersey.

May 28, 1777. Muhlenberg's and Weedon's brigades formed into division of General Greene.

September 11, 1777. Battle of Brandywine. Wayne's, Muhlenberg's, and Weedon's brigades stationed at Chadd's Ford.

The preservation of the whole army at Brandywine due to the conduct of Greene's division, Muhlenberg and Weedon's brigades. See *Memoirs*, pages 94-97. Muhlenberg's brigade the last to leave the field.

October 4, 1777. Battle of Germantown. See *Memoirs*, pages 108-116.

October and November, 1777. Detailed for duty upon court-martial to try Wayne, for surprise, at Paoli; Stephen, for intoxication, at Germantown; and Maxwell, for intoxication, at Brandywine.

October 29, 1777. Council of war to decide upon the expediency of an attack upon Philadelphia.

November, 1777. Second council of war to decide same point. Muhlenberg one of four who voted in favor.

December, 1777. Muhlenberg gives an opinion in favor of putting the army in winter quarters at Reading and Lancaster.

December, 1777. Washington makes choice of Valley Forge for the winter quarters of the army.

April 10, 1778. Tenders his resignation to General Washington, on account of dispute as to rank; resignation not accepted, or rather asked by Washington to remain. Pages 126, 140.



1777-1778. Remains at Valley Forge during whole winter.

May 28, 1778. General Lee appointed to command Muhlenberg and Scott's brigade.

June 18, 1778. English evacuate Philadelphia.

June, 1778. Battle of Monmouth. Pages 153-158.

July-October, 1778. With main army at White Plains.

November 2, 1778. Appointed by Washington to command a division to succeed General Putnam.

November 28, 1778-June 2, 1779. Muhlenberg's division in winter quarters at Middlebrook.

1779. General Muhlenberg selected to cover Wayne's rear at the attack on Stony Point. See letter of Wayne, page 174.

December, 1779. Goes into winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey.

December 14, 1797. Whole Virginia line ordered south Muhlenberg to command those regiments.

January, 1780. Named commander of all forces in Virginia.

February 25, 1780. Sets out for Virginia.

April, 1780. Arrives in Richmond.

May 12, 1780. Charleston capitulates.

April-December 3, 1780. Commander of all forces in Virginia.

December 3, 1780. Major General Steuben takes command in Virginia.

January and February, 1781. Opposed to Arnold in Virginia. Shuts Arnold up in Portsmouth, Virginia.

April 29, 1781. Lafayette takes command in Virginia.

April 24, 1781. Fight at Petersburg between Arnold and Philips with three thousand English and General Muhlenberg. Remarks of Steuben on same. Page 251.

May, 1781. General Muhlenberg takes command of the regular troops brought south by Lafayette.

May 20, 1781. Cornwallis and Arnold effect a junction at Petersburg.

June 10, 1781. Wayne joins Lafayette.

June 20, 1781. Richmond evacuated by Cornwallis.

July 6, 1781. Action between Lafayette and Cornwallis ; Muhlenberg saves Wayne's forces. Page 262.

July. Cornwallis retreats to Yorktown.

August 28, 1781. French fleet arrives in the bay.

September, 1781. Muhlenberg sent south of James river to prevent projected retreat of Cornwallis to the south.

September, 14. General Washington and Count Rochambeau arrive at Williamsburg.

September 29. Muhlenberg placed in command of the advanced forts around Yorktown.

September 29. Investiture of Yorktown completed.

October 15, 1781. The "twin batteries," called the two flank redoubts, stormed and taken at the point of the bayonet by troops led by Alexander Hamilton and Peter Muhlenberg. Pages 270--275. General Muhlenberg slightly wounded in attack.

October 19, 1781. Yorktown capitulates.

1781—March, 1783. Continues in army till signing of treaty of peace.

September 30, 1783. Promoted to be Major General, Anthony Wayne being his immediate senior and General Clinton his immediate junior on the list.

November, 1783. General Muhlenberg removes permanently to Pennsylvania.

February to July, 1784. Makes a trip to locate county lands in Kentucky.

1785. Elected Vice President of Pennsylvania. Franklin President during the same time.

1786. Reëlected Vice President of Pennsylvania.

1787. Reëlected Vice President of Pennsylvania.

Conflict between Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

[ Civil war in Wyoming. Vice President Muhlenberg asks Congress, in 1788, to send regular troops there.

September, 1787. Convention to frame Constitution assembles at Philadelphia.

General Muhlenberg an ardent advocate of its adoption.

Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Speaker of the State Convention called to ratify or reject the Constitution adopted by Philadelphia Convention of 1787.

December, 1788. General Muhlenberg chosen one of eight members of First Congress, to serve from March 4, 1789—March 4, 1791.

April, 1789. Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg elected Speaker of House of Representatives, First Congress. General Muhlenberg, member of Committee of National Defence, Militia, and Bounty Lands of Virginia.

1790. New Constitution of Pennsylvania adopted; great influence in its favor exercised by General Muhlenberg.

1793. Elected to Congress from Montgomery county district for term 1793–1795. Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg elected Speaker of this, Third Congress.

1797. Elector from Pennsylvania.

1799—1801. Member of Congress.

1801. In Burr and Jefferson contest, for Presidency, voted for Jefferson on every ballot until, on the thirty-sixth ballot, the latter was declared elected.

February 18, 1801. Elected United States Senator.



June 30, 1801. Resigns, and is appointed Supervisor of Internal Revenue of Pennsylvania.

July, 1802. Appointed Collector of Philadelphia.

October 1, 1807. Dies at Philadelphia.

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## II. Authorities.

"Life of Major General Peter Muhlenberg, citing in notes the original sources of information and original letters"—Carey & Hart, Philadelphia; 1849. "Geschichte der Deutschen Gessellschaft, Seidensticker"—Schafer & Korado, Philadelphia; 1876. "New Sweden Acrelius"—translated by Reynolds, published by Historical Society of Pennsylvania; 1877. "Life of Conrad Weiser"—Daniel Miller, Reading; 1876. "American Encyclopædia." "Philadelphia Times," Sunday, May 18, 1879, page 2, article on Wayne.

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## III. Muhlenberg's Farewell Sermon.

The pastor rose, the prayer was strong;  
The Psalm was warrior David's song;  
The text, a few short words of might,  
"The Lord of Hosts shall arm the right."  
He spoke of wrongs, too long endured,  
Of sacred rights to be secured.  
When from his patriot tongue of flame  
The startling words for freedom came,  
The stirring sentences he spake  
Compelled the heart to glow or quake,  
And rising on his theme's broad wing,  
And grasping in his nervous hand,  
The imaginary battle brand,  
In face of death he dared to fling  
Defiance to a tyrant king.

Even as he spoke, his frame renewed  
In eloquence of attitude,  
Rose, as it seemed, a shoulder higher,  
Then swept his kindling glance of fire,  
From startled pew to breathless choir,  
When suddenly his mantle wide  
His hands impatient flung aside,  
And lo! he met their wondering eyes  
Complete in all a warrior's guise.

A moment there was awful pause,  
When Berkley cried cease, "traitor! cease!  
God's temple is the House of peace!"  
The other shouted "nay, not so,  
When God is with our righteous cause:  
His holiest places then are ours,  
His temples are our forts and towers,  
That frown upon the tyrant foe.  
In this the dawn of freedom's day,  
"There is a time to fight and pray!"

And now before the open door—  
The warrior priest had ordered so—  
The enlisting trumpet's sudden soar  
Rang through the chapel, o'er and o'er,  
Its long reverberating blow,  
So loud and clear, it seemed the ear  
Of dusty death must wake and hear,  
And then the startling drum and fife  
Fired the living with fiercer life;  
While overhead, with wild increase,  
Forgetting its ancient toll of peace,  
The great bell rung as ne'er before;  
It seemed as it would never cease,  
And every word its ardor flung  
From off its jubilant iron tongue  
Was "War! War! War!"

"Who dares"—this was the Patriot's cry,  
As striding from the desk he came—  
"Come out with me, in freedom's name,

For her to live, for her to die ! ”  
One hundred hands flung out reply,  
One hundred voices answered, “ I ! ”

—*Buchanan Read's Wagoner of the Alleghenies.*

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#### IV. Pastor Muehlenberg's Abschiedsrede, Januar, 1776.

Der Orgel Toene waren schon verklungen,  
Und Gottes Schutz auf sie herabgefleht;  
Die letzte Dankeshymne war gesungen,  
Doch scheidend Vater Muehlenberg noch steht.  
Da sprach er von vergang'nen frohen Tagen,  
Die sie in Fried' und Gottesfurcht verlebt,  
Von eich'nem Fleisz, von maennlich kuehnem Wagen,  
Das wilde land zum Paradies erhebt.

Von Gottes Schutz und Seinem reichen Segen,  
Den Er verlieh den Heerden und dem Feld;  
Dasz sie auch ferner Ihm vertrauen moegen,  
Dann sei ihr Haus auf Felsen fest gestellt.  
Doch auch von schlimmen Zeiten war die Rede,  
Von Zeiten, die die naechste Zukunft bringt;  
Von Druck und Schmach, von blut'ger kriegesfehde,  
Zu der sie England's blinde Feindshaft zwingt.

Sie sind dahin, des Friedens heitre Stunden!  
Der Tag erschien fuer maennlich kuehne That!  
Fuer ruhiges Gebet ist jetzt die Zeit verschwunden,  
Die Zeit des Kampfes ist herangenah!  
Der Orgelton, der friedevolle, weichet  
Der kriegestrommel, die der Feind gesandt;  
Die Hand, die segnend euch den Kelch gereichet,  
Greift jest zum Schwert, fuer's theu're Faderland!

Da gleitet ploetzlich zu des Altar's stufen,  
Der geistliche Ornat, der ihm umschlosz,  
Und unter Freud' und lautem Jubelrufen  
Stand er enthuehlt, ein Krieger, hehr und grosz!  
Und vor die Kirche fuehrt er die Gemeinde,  
Zum stillen Platz, wo Trauerweiden steh'n;  
Wo frueher nur der stille Kummer weinte,  
Da hoert man jest die Werbetrommel gehn!



**AN ACT**

Providing for a commission to have statues executed and placed in the old hall of the house of representatives, in the capitol of the United States, and making an appropriation therefor.

WHEREAS, By the second section of an act of congress, entitled "An act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government, for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and for other purposes," approved the second day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, the president of the United States is authorized to invite each and all of the states to provide and furnish statues in marble or bronze, not exceeding two in number for each state, of deceased persons, who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown, or from distinguished civil or military services, such as each state shall determine to be worthy of that national commemoration, and when so furnished, the same shall be placed in old hall of the house of representatives, in the capitol of the United States, which is set apart, or so much thereof as may be necessary, as a national statuary hall for the purposes therein indicated:

*And whereas,* Many of the states of the Union have complied with the invitation, causing to be erected in the capitol at Washington such statues of their most illustrious citizens, and as it is desirable that Pennsylvania should also be so represented; therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, &c.,* That the governor shall appoint six citizens of the commonwealth, who shall constitute a commission to have executed in marble or bronze the statues of two deceased persons who have been citizens of the commonwealth, illustrious for their historic renown, or

for distinguished civil or other services, previous to or during the revolution, to be placed in that part of the national gallery reserved for this state, with power to select an artist, and to contract for the execution of said statues at a price not to exceed the sum of fifteen thousand dollars.

SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of the persons composing said commission to meet in the office of the secretary of the commonwealth, in Harrisburg, at the call of the governor, within six months after the passage of this act, and effect an organization by electing one of their number president of the commission, and one secretary of said commission; shall have the power to adjourn from time to time and place to place, and make such rules and regulations not inconsistent with their appointment as may be necessary to accomplish the purpose of this act.

SECTION 3. That the sum of two thousand dollars be and is hereby appropriated out of moneys in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose herein named, and for defraying the actual traveling expenses of the commissioners; the said sum to be expended under the direction and in the discretion of the commission hereby created, and to be paid by warrants drawn on the state treasurer, signed by the president and secretary of said commission.

SECTION 4. That the said commission shall make an annual report to the legislature of the progress made in the work contemplated by this act.

APPROVED—The 18th day of April, A. D. 1877.

J. F. HARTRANFT.



October 16, 1877. Governor John F. Hartranft appointed, as the commission, Honorable Simon Cameron, of Dauphin; George deB. Keim, Esquire, and Honorable Francis A. Osbourn, of Philadelphia; Doctor Thomas McKennan, of Washington; John C. Hager, Esquire, of Lancaster, and Honorable Daniel Ermentrout, of Berks.

October 18, 1877. Commission organized, at Harrisburg, by electing Honorable Simon Cameron president, and George deB. Keim secretary.

December 18, 1878. Contracts made by the commission with Mr. Howard Roberts, of Philadelphia, for statue of Fulton, and with Miss Blanche Nevin, of Lancaster, for statue of Muhlenberg.

January 9, 1879. Report of commission made to Legislature.